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GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY INC.

Volume 48 | Berkeley, Calif. | January 1966 | Number 1

"ZERO HOUR IN THE REDWOODS"

Mr. James B. Linford will be the speaker at the regular monthly meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Socicty on **Thursday, January 13,** at **7:30 p.m.** His talk will be accompanied by a documentary film on the California coast redwoods entitled "Zero Hour in the Redwoods," with photography by Mr. and Mrs. Linford. The meeting will be held in the Rotary Natural Science Center near the duck refuge in Lakeside Park, Oakland.

The evening will start with a no-host dinner at 6:30 p.m. in Lovely's Buffet, 336 Grand Avenue near Perkins. Lovely's Buffet and the Natural Science Center are within easy walking distance of each other. Visitors are welcome. – RICHARD and MARY LEINBACH, *Program Co-Chairmen.*

FIELD TRIPS FOR JANUARY

Tuesday, January 11, Golden Gate Park. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Steinhart Aquarium, which can be reached by taking the No. 10 Municipal Bus. Wintering ducks, grebes, and thrushes may be found in the park. Anna's hummingbirds start nesting activities as early as December. Bring lunch, binoculars and interested friends. Leader, Mrs. Vi Homem, 655-8886.

Saturday, January 15, East shore of Tomales Bay for the study of water birds. Meet at 9 a.m. in front of the Post Office in the town of Tomales. Bring lunch, binoculars, scopes and interested friends. Leader, Dr. A. Laurence Curl, 526-7004.

Saturday, February 5, Lake Merced, San Francisco, for the study of land and water birds. Meet at 9:15 a.m. in thc big parking lot north of the lake just off Sunset Blvd. Bring lunch, binoculars, scopes and interested friends. Leader, Miss Aileen Pierson, JU 7-4163. – MRS. VALERIA G. DaCOSTA, *Field Trips Chairman.*

NOTE: This is a good time to mark your 1966 calendar for the annual Yosemite Park field trip, which will be **June 3-5.** Mrs. Phyllis Zweigart (1508A Edith St., Berkeley) will be in charge of week-end reservations. Details will appear in the February *Gull.*

ALAMEDA CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION FIGHTS FOR TIDELANDS

Save the Bay Association has voted $500 to support the Alameda Conservation Association's efforts to prevent further erosion of the public interest precept as it pertains to San Francisco Bay tidelands, including those surrounding **Bay Farm Island.**

Henry M. Siegel, attorney for ACA in the law suit filed in October, presented the legal aspects at the December meeting of Save the Bay Association. The outcome of ACA's suit is expected to furnish a basis for decisions of the Bay Conservation and Development Commission. Mr. Siegel has offered to discuss the suit with any organized group.

Many Audubon members have responded to ACA's appeal for help in building up a "fighting fund", and the Executive Board of Golden Gate Audubon Society has voted $100 for a patron membership in ACA.

It is going to take a concerted effort on the part of those who care to carry the case through the courts to a final decision. Contributions, large or small, are solicited. Address the Alameda Conservation Association, Box 341, Alameda. —*ELSIE ROEMER*

A RAIL CENSUS AT BAY FARM ISLAND

December 8 was a big day for rail counting in the Bay Farm Island marsh. At one of winter's highest tides, Mrs. Elsie Roemer tallied 10 clapper rails, 8 sora, and 3 Virginia. During this count we enjoyed a picturesque scene that would delight a bird photographer: — 4 clapper rails, 1 Virginia and 1 sora posing together on a duck blind. — ED.

NATURALIST PROGRAM AT AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

The Golden Gate Audubon Society will underwrite the expense of a naturalist pilot program at Audubon Canyon Ranch during 1966 An appropriation was voted for this purpose by the Board of Governors at its December meeting from funds remaining in the Josephine Knowles bequest.

Lynn Stafford, who is leaving the Audubon Center of Northern California the first of the year in order to study at Sonoma State College, will lay out the program. Lynn's time will be limited since he expects to take a full course at Sonoma State, but we expect his part-time work at Canyon Ranch will include laying out the Bert Harwell Nature Trail and writing a descriptive guide to it. He will also train and supervise student naturalists who will lead regular nature walks at Canyon Ranch this spring.

The Board hopes that on the basis of the experience gained from this year's pilot program a greatly expanded program can be planned for 1967.

"Congratulations on the truly remarkable job you have already done and continue to do in raising the great sums necessary to save the Canyon Ranch," Carl Buchheister, President of National Audubon Society, writes. "You all have done not only a splendid job of actually saving a strategically important natural area, but you have given an example and encouragement to organizations and individuals throughout the country."

Janet Nickelsburg, our Education Chairman, has written an article about Canyon Ranch for one of the forthcoming issues of *Audubon Magazine* — probably the January-February one.

COVEL'S CONSERVATION CORNER

Rose-colored specs loaned us by an optimistic friend enable us to write these cheerful lines for the New Year. The conservation legislation record of the 89th Congress, First Session, was in fact memorable — if one can overlook the handouts to local interests in the Omnibus River and Harbor Act and to "big dam" planners. Among acts bolstering conservation and better natural resource management were: *The Water Quality Act* of 1965, strengthening of the *Clean Air Act*, *Food and Agriculture Act* of 1965 (which retires some farm lands and pays farmers incentives to allow recreation uses), *acceleration of research on salt water conversion*, and the *Housing and Urban Development Act* which assists communities in developing water and sewage systems and acquiring open space lands. Several historical sites and monuments were established in the Western States, and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Guadalupe Mts. National Park, Canyonlands National Park and Oregon Dunes National Seashore and a Redwood National Park moved closer to reality.

A Long-Range Fish and Wildlife Plan for California, including the sports of "bird-watching and nature study," was recently assembled by the Department of Fish and Game and submitted to State planning agencies for inclusion in the State Development Plan. We trust that the survey on Audubon field trip spending made a few years ago was taken into account and perhaps helped towards our inclusion as an import outdoor-user group! We understand that the U.S. Bureau of the Census has also taken a survey of public preferences in outdoor recreation for that new Federal bureau. We venture to suggest that as fishing and hunting become more and more expensive and less rewarding in many parts of the country — such as California — more of this fraternity will change to binoculars!

Also on the California scene: the just-announced purchase by the Department of Parks and Recreation of the Sugar Pine Beach tract on Lake Tahoe West Shore is good news for Californians; the new Williamson Act will grant tax concessions to farmers who refuse to sell out to developers; responses from Sacramento point to the probable enlargement of Torrey Pines State Reserve (for which Golden Gate Audubon also worked), and the projected channelization (i.e. "ruination") of the Lower Colorado River in Calif.-Arizona has been susupended pending further studies due largely to the outcries of fish and wildlife agencies, conservation groups and innumerable citizens of both states who fish and hunt there. Perhaps abandonment of big dam projects upstream would also help conserve water along the Colorado. Please follow these in 1966!

Remember, G.G.A.S. members and friends, many of the afore-mentioned accomplishments in conservation and natural resource management were achieved through the efforts of people like you and organizations you support: The National Audubon Society, Sierra Club, National Wildlife Federation, Izaac Walton League and others. Keep up the effort! — PAUL F. COVEL, *Conservation Chairman.*

ANOTHER WESTERN MARSH IS THREATENED

Audubon members and other conservationists are fighting to preserve the Nisqually Flats, some 3,000 aeres of natural marshland, on the outskirts of Tacoma, Washington. The Tacoma Port Commission wants to condemn the entire area and turn it into deep channels, docks, and industrial sites, aecording to the *Audubon Leader's Conservation Guide*, Dec. 1, 1965.

THREE MORE AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILMS

Three more Audubon Wildlife Films remain on the schedule to brighten our New Year:

On Monday, January 3, Walter H. Berlet takes us "Northwest to Alaska." (Details were in the Deeember *Gull.*)

Wednesday, February 9, G. Clifford Carl of Victoria, B.C., will show us the "Essenee of Life."

Monday, Mareh 7, Patricia B. Witherspoon will guide us on "Stepping Stones to Australia," including Oahu, Canton Island, and Viti Levu.

These eolorful films will be presented at 8:15 p.m. in the Berkeley Little Theatre, Allston Way at Grove Street, Berkeley. The doors open at 7:45 p.m. Admission at the door (for anyone who does not have a season ticket) will be $1.50 for adults and $1.00 for students under 18.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Klamath Basin Refuge: — Nine venturesome Audubonites braved the cold weather and snow to visit the Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge over the Thanksgiving weekend. Under the guidance of Refuge Manager, Robert C. Watson, the group observed more than 80 speeies of birds. Among the highlights were a number of bald eagles in adult plumage, golden eagles, numerous Ameriean rough-legged hawks and short-eared owls, plus many speeies of waterfowl, ineluding a European widgeon.

Conn Lake: — Led by Jaek L. Mann, the Conn Lake field trip on December 4 was rewarding. Despite an early morning fog, the California sun came through and over 60 species of birds were seen. — VALERIA G. DaCOSTA.

THE ACTIVE CONSERVATION TACTICS OF U.C. STUDENTS

Aetive Conservation Taeties (ACT) is a new organization formed by University of California students who believe in a moral land ethic. ACT ineludes both conservation and clean-up tactics. President James A. Conley, a senior English major from Albany, says that the organization considers itself "an aetivist group using eurrent means of social protest." The members feel that conservation, or preservation, is a moral issue. ACT is not conneeted with any other soeial-aetion or politieal group.

As their first civic action project, members of ACT spent three laborious hours removing some 200 eubic feet of tin cans, broken bottles, serap paper, and assorted litter from a steep slope below a Berkeley seenic viewpoint on Grizzly Peak Blvd. In November many energetic members of ACT sloshed in the Albany mudflats to pull out 240 old tires that had littered the shoreline.

SAYING:

The Early Bird Catches the Worm

If at any time
You should be stirred
To imitate
The early bird,
Make sure you fly
And do not squirm,
For think of the fate
Of the early worm!

FLORA J. ARNSTEIN

BOOK LIST

YOUR LETTERS

— How do you pronounce Cygnet in English? Do swans really run on the water? I like your "The Cygnet for Young People" very much. I am enclosing a dollar for a subscription of it. In school I have changed from room 7 to room 12. I like my new teacher better than the old one.

Love Jonathan Parker (9 years old)

Dear Jonathan: Cygnet is pronounced like signet, the "C" is like a hiss. Swans being heavy birds have a difficult time taking off from the surface of water, therefore they run lightly along the top beating their wings until they are air borne.

I want to know: What is the little, green bug that has four legs. They're about that small (O) and it's not a grasshopper. I see them all over. I see them on the windows.

Jill Pruett (6½ years old)

Dear Jill: All bugs have six and not four legs, so it is hard to answer your question. Take another look and tell me some more about that "bug" and perhaps I will be able to answer your question on the next CYGNET.

Dear Mrs. N.: My name is Jeffry Pruett. I am nine years old and I would like to know the history of

The Cygnet for young people

C Opton

Published by the GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY

No. 2 — WINTER 1966

Taking a Nature Trip

nature trip, either by yourself or with a grown-up, whom you can show the best way to discover interesting things on your walk.

First of all, you don't need to go far from your home. If you understand how to go about it you can take your nature walk in your own backyard or even inside your house. The way to begin is to learn to open your eyes. What do I mean? I mean really to look at things, and not only to look, but to touch and smell them, perhaps even to taste them, or if they are alive to listen to the sounds they make. However, very few of us do this kind of looking. We are in too much of a hurry. We imagine we've observed an object when we say to ourselves, "Yes, that's a robin, or a worm or a piece of grass.

But have we really seen it? What is the color of the robin's breast? Yes, of course you know he has a red breast, but is it really red or orange? How does the robin move about on the ground? Does it hop or walk one leg after another like we do? What color are its feet and what makes its eyes look so round?

If you were looking at a worm would you notice how it moves from place to place? Is its movement like that of a looping caterpiller, lifting the fore end of its body from the ground, stretching it out, and worm moves? Look and see!

Or a piece of grass, what does it really look like? Are all grass plants in your lawn the same? Are they the same as those that grow out of the crack at the edge of the pavement on your street? Have you noticed the feathery green flowers they have, how the veins in the leaves grow in straight parallel lines from stem to tip? Is this the same pattern of veining as on the ivy, or dandelion leaf?

Are all trees the same shape? Are their trunks the same color? Are their tops all pointed, or are some flat? By looking at the shape of the tree can you tell a eucalyptus from a pine, or a pine from a cypress? If so, what are some of the ways by which you can recognize a eucalyptus, a pine and a cypress, even when they are far off?

You can discover the answers to many questions on your nature walk, IF YOU DON'T HURRY. The success of a nature walk is measured in the number of different things you have noticed that you never saw before.

There are about 16 questions to answer in this article. Send me your answers and I'll let you know how many you got right in the next issue of THE CYGNET.

Buffalo Land by Wiliam Berry
Published by the MacMillan Co., 1961, $1.95

Deneki, An Alaskan Moose by William Berry
Pubished by the MacMillan Co., 1965, $2.95

Spring is Here by Dorothy Sterling
Doubleday & Co., N.Y., 1964, $3.25

This book contains a great deal of information on many subjects including Bird Migration, Hibernation of Chipmunks and Frogs, Short-day and long Day Plants, Wasps and Fish.

The Secrets of the Dolphins by Helen Kay
Published by the MacMillan Co., N.Y., $3.00

Whale's Way by Johanna Johnston
Published by Doubleday & Co., Garden City, 1965, $2.95

BOOKS FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

Who goes there in my Garden by Ethel Collier
Published by Wm. R. Scott, Inc., $3.25

Who Is It? by Zhenya Gas
Published by Viking Press, 1957, $2.50

Footprints of animals.

Over the Meadow by John Langstaff
Published by Harcourt Brace & World Inc., 1957, $3.50

These books can all be seen and purchased at the bookshop of The National Audubon Society, 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 4. The profit on everything sold here goes towards helping the conservation program of the National Audubon Society.

Dear Jeffrey: Look in the list of books and you will find two names there, one about whales and the other about dolphins.

DEAR CHILDREN:

I want to thank those of you who wrote letters to the Cygnet. But there really weren't enough of you yet to make it worth while to keep publishing the CYGNET. The Golden Gate Audubon Society needs to know whether you really want to have me continue to send you the CYGNET. They would like to have me tell you that if you send $1.00 you will receive a year's subscription to the Cygnet and if enough money comes in I can send you six copies every year, that is one every two months. Do let me hear from you.

Write to: Mrs. M. S. Nickelsburg
2585 Union Street
San Francisco
California 94123

The group has also sponsored an on-campus information campaign against two proposed Interior Department high dams which would endanger the Grand Canyon, and they are selling "Save the Grand Canyon" buttons.

Warren Larson, our Golden Gate Audubon President, on November 17 sent the following letter to James A. Conley, ACT President:

"The Golden Gate Audubon Society, a conservation organization, was delighted to learn, through a Berkeley Daily Gazette article, of the formation of Active Conservation Tactics. We endorse your statement that conservation is a 'moral land ethic,' and particularly commend your principle of local clean-up action. This is tremendously important, as many people view conservationists as impractical visionaries.

"Your plan to remove the old tires from the tidal flats north of Golden Gate Fields is of particular significance. To most people, tide-lands, which they view as 'mudflats', are at best unattractive. When they are filled with old tires and other unsightly debris, they present a ready argument for dredging or filling.

"The extreme importance of the few remaining tide-lands in San Francisco Bay as feeding places for migratory waterfowl and spawning grounds for many varieties of commercial and sport fish, and as the areas that provide most of the food for the Bay's underwater population, is little understood. They are the most critical areas in the Bay's chain of life, and all conservationists recognize this and join in the effort to preserve them.

"It is a matter of great encouragement to already established conservation groups that today's students of the University of California are taking this positive action which will enhance and beautify the area, to the credit of all public and private agencies concerned."

FIELD OBSERVATIONS

Kenneth R. Schulz reports the following observations:

On November 13 a small number of hardy birders braved a stormy, rainy day in a fishing boat on Monterey Bay. They were rewarded for their diligence by finding such birds as the Manx shearwater, black and ashy petrels, black-legged kittiwakes, ancient murrelets and a well-observed specimen of the rarely seen pale-footed shearwater (Puffinus carneipes).

On May 28 Kenneth Schulz observed a male Scott's oriole and a male and female American redstart at Deep Springs, California. "The Scott's oriole record is significant in that the location of observation is somewhat north of this bird's normal range."

NEW BOOKS ON WESTERN NATURAL HISTORY

Joshua Barkin, Naturalist at Tilden Regional Park, is the author of *Survival Plants of the East Bay*. This interesting book is available for 25¢

from the East Bay Regional Park District, 11500 Skyline Blvd., Oakland, Calif., 94619 (Telephone 531-9300). Mr Barkin gave an outstanding talk on local plants at one of our Audubon meetings.

Introducing Our Western Birds was written by Matthew F. Vessel and Herbert H. Wong for children 6 to 12 years of age. Ron King's attractive illustrations in color are helpful in the identification of birds. The chapter titles indicate the scope of the book: "Birds and Their Food," "Nesting," "How to Identify Birds," "Birds of City and Country Gardens," "Birds of Farm and Ranch," "Birds of Desert Gardens," "Birds of Mountain Gardens," "Birds of Hawaiian Gardens." Dr. Wong is Principal of U.C.'s Washington Demonstration School in Berkeley, a former director of Golden Gate Audubon Society, and a recipient of the California Conservation Merit Award. Dr. Vessel is Professor of Biology and Science Education and Chairman of the Science Education Department at San Jose State College. This hard-bound book, published by Fearon, sells for $3.95.

Backyard Wild Birds of California and the Pacific Northwest is a $1.00 paperback by Vinson Brown with illustrations by Rosinda Holmes (125 of them in color). A special feature for beginners is the two-page "Key to Bird Shapes." This book has 64 pages, including an index, and is published by T.F.H. Publications, Inc.

Black Brant, Sea Goose of the Pacific Coast by Arthur S. Einarsen is the true story of the black brant's struggle for survival in its former wilderness domain — from its nesting grounds in the Arctic to its wintering grounds in California and Mexico. According to the author, spoilage of the brant's feeding grounds through pollution and invasion now poses one of the greatest threats to the existence of the species. Einarsen was formerly with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This work includes photographs and was published by the University of Washington Press in September 1965 for $5.00.

Save-the-Redwoods League has published 1965 editions of four educational pamphlets on the Coast Redwoods: *A Living Link in History* by John C. Merriam, *Story Told by a Fallen Redwood* by Emanuel Fritz, *Redwoods of the Past* by Ralph W. Chaney — for 25¢ each, and *Trees, Shrubs and Flowers of the Redwood Region* by Willis Linn Jepson for 50¢.

Four new books in the series of California Natural History Guides have been published by the University of California Press: *Introduction to the Natural History of Southern California* by Edmund C. Jaeger and Arthur C. Smith, *Native Trees of Southern California* by P. Victor Peterson, *Native Shrubs of Southern California* by Peter H. Raven, and *Field Guide to the Ferns and Fern Allies of California* by Steve J. Grillos. The first two are $1.75 each and the second two are $1.50 each.

A Birdwatcher's Guide to Southeastern Arizona by James A. Lane is a helpful new guide for the vacationing birder. "The main purpose of this guide is to help the birdwatcher locate the best places to find the various

birds of Southeastern Arizona." Precise mileage and directions are given for finding the best birding spots, and the author includes detailed information about the seasons, clothing, and camping and lodging facilities. Eight loop trips are described. Listed in one chapter are the birds regularly found in Southeastern Arizona, and special attention is given to those species which are not found elsewhere in the United States. After his first visit to Southeastern Arizona fifteen years ago, Mr. Lane has lived or visited there every year. A map, bibliography, and index are useful additions to this 46-page book ($1.50).

The above-mentioned publications may be purchased from the National Audubon Society's Conservation Resource Center, 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, California, 94704.

MEMORIAL GIFTS TO AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

The following gifts of remembrance were made to Audubon Canyon Ranch:

In Memory of:	*Gift of*:
Isabel Hovsepian	Rose Hovsepian
Mrs. Della Rowell	Katherine S. Bishop
Mabel V. Carter	Mr. and Mrs. Sterrett Wods
Mr. Dean V. Murphy	Mr. Carl H. Fox
Mr. Le Neveu	Mr. Carl H. Fox
Thomas Jones	California Alpine Club
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Eleanor F. Hussey	Mrs. Mary H. Hutchison
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Mrs. Anna Leavens	Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Morse
Harriet Burroughs	Bertha Underhill
Harriet Burroughs	Madeline Sheridan
Harold G. Peterson	Lucile E. Smith
Alden Miller	Patricia A. Welsh

— DR. ALBERT BOLES, *Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman*

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to our Society: from Berkeley, Mrs. H. A. Barker, Mr. J. W. Billings, Mr. Alvin J. Clark, Mr. Charles I. Diekeman, Miss Karin E. Hodge, Alpha and Ann Kosky, Mrs. Norman Spitzer, Mr. John Westlane; from El Cerrito, Miss Aileen Bonestell; from Livermore, Mr. James G. Needels; from Oakland, Mr. Clarence A. DeLaneey, Mr. W. Patriek Dunbar, Mrs. J. Floyd Eaton, Miss Mary Ann Fritz, Mrs. Earl B. Mitchell; from Orinda, Mr. Roger Brewer; from San Franeiseo, Mrs. C. Frederie Fluhmann, Miss Mary T. Fortney, Mrs. Pauline C. Johnson, Mr. Andre Laroehelle, Mrs. Roy Newell, Mrs. Walter Schilling, Dr. Harry S. Weinstein. — MRS. MARJORIE N. WILSON, *Membership Chairman.*

HAPPY NEW YEAR

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GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917 A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

President	A. Warren Larson	44 Rincon Road, Berkeley 7	525-9149
Vice President	Miss Bertha Underhill	35 Tamalpais Rd., Berkeley	848-0131
Vice President	Robert E. Peterson	575½ Liberty St., San Francisco	826-7079
Treasurer	Mrs. Alice D. Radcliffe	2101 Bay St., San Francisco	JO 7-5856
Recording Secretary	Miss Patricia Triggs	2038-33rd Ave., San Francisco	MO 4-8502
Corresponding Secretary	Miss Marjorie M. Atkinson	4 Willow Lane, Kensington	525-2702
Director	Miss Aileen Pierson	810 Gonzalez Dr., San Francisco	JU 7-4163
Director	Miss Erline Hevel	425 Ulloa St., San Francisco	661-4251
Director	Robert C. DaCosta, Jr.	2090 Pacific Ave., San Francisco 9	931-5257
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Membership Chairman	Mrs. Marjorie N. Wilson	3839 Divisadero St., San Francisco	WE 1-2371
Program Co-Chairmen	Richard and Mary Leinbach	201 Purdue Ave., Kensington	526-7649
Education Chairman	Mrs. Janet Nickelsburg	2585 Union, San Francisco 23	WA 1-9449
Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman	Dr. Albert Boles	854 Longridge Rd., Oakland 10	GL 1-6267
Wildlife Film Chairman	Mrs. Frances Ellen Fallgatter	406 El Cerrito, Piedmont 11	OL 5-9582
Conservation Chairman	Paul F. Covel	2860 Delaware St., Oakland 2	KE 6-4120
Canyon Ranch Film Distribution Chairman	Mrs. Bonnie Smith	555 Dewey Blvd., San Francisco	OV 1-7635
Audubon Canyon Ranch contributions	Send to Box 2113, San Francisco 947126		

Claims for missing numbers of THE GULL should be sent to the Editor. Changes of address should be sent to the Membership Chairman.

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National, $8.50 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately $2.00 per year.

Visit the Conservation Center of the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, California 94701 848-4042